

THE GREAT COLLEGE.

How Cleveland and Stevenson Will be Elected by It.

When and How the Electoral Body Proceeds With Its Work Its Preliminary and Postscript.

Correspondence of THE HERALD.

NEW YORK, Nov. 23.—The president and vice-president of the United States are elected on the second Tuesday in January. The formal declaration of the election is made by the vice-president of the United States, or if there be none, by the president of the Senate in the presence of Congress. Once in four years the Senate chooses its chamber, enters the House of Representatives in a body, sits with that body, thus constituting the Congress, and in its presence tellers who are members of the Congress count the vote delivered in the electoral college, report the count to the vice-president, who declares it, and on the return makes the announcement of the election of the president.

Under the original clause of the constitution there came trouble very early. In the election of 1800 Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr were found to have received an equal vote in the combined electoral college. If Jefferson had received one more vote he would have been declared elected president, while Burr would have been chosen vice-president. For the original constitution it was simply provided that the man who received the largest number of electoral votes should be chosen president, and the man who received the next largest as vice-president.

It was seen that this provision was going to make trouble. It was found that in 1800 the result was a tie in the election of a vice-president of different political faith from the president-elect, and it also made a constant peril that there would be no choice in the electoral college, so that Congress would be constantly required to choose the president and vice-president. Jefferson was chosen by Burr, and Adams was also chosen, but in his case it was because no one had received a majority in the electoral college.

In case of a tie in the electoral college, charges which amounted almost to accusations, that the friends of the successful candidate had made bargains. There was passing at that time a bill for the amendment of the constitution, which occurred in subsequent elections when the accusation was made by Mr. Burr's friends that through a bargain with Alexander Hamilton, the creator of the Federalist party, Mr. Jefferson, the creator of the Democratic-Republican party, was chosen president by the House over Mr. Burr. In 1824 it was the scandal of the day, although many believed it to be an unfounded one, that Mr. Adams' friends had bargained with those of Henry Clay, the terms of the bargain being that they should elect Adams president, and that he should appoint Mr. Clay secretary of state. The accusation was widely believed, and contemporaneous politicians charged that Adams was away from the capital, and that the presidency and the students of political history are inclined to that opinion now.

No serious disturbance, so far as the machinery of the electoral college is concerned, occurred until 1876 and 1877. Then a dangerous crisis, owing to a dispute over the choice of electors in several states was developed. It was the result of the Democratic party that a sufficient number of electors had been fairly chosen to give Samuel J. Tilden a majority in the electoral college. It was adversely affected by the opposing party that the electors representing it in these disputed states had been chosen, but a single vote was really in dispute, that is to say the contest was over the claims of the victorious side could only be established by a majority of one electoral vote.

It was decided by a piece of machinery conceived in the spirit of compromise and with an aim like an idea of arbitration at the bottom of it. It was admittedly an ultra-constitutional body to which the decision was referred, and the decision was arrived at by a body which was not established by a majority of one electoral vote.

The men who are to elect the next president and vice-president of the United States were themselves elected on Tuesday, November 3, and it may be of interest to know exactly what these men do when they gather as an electoral college. By the constitution of the United States they are all required to meet upon the same day, that day being the day upon which they are to vote. Upon organization the first step is to see whether every elector is present who has been chosen. If there are any vacancies caused either by death, refusal to serve, or even neglect to attend, these are immediately filled by a plurality vote of those who are present. Having thus filled the electoral college, a president is chosen and a secretary, who must be electors.

Upon the next day the electors meet at the capital and there vote first by ballot for candidates for president, and then they vote for the candidates for vice-president, and there is but one restriction upon this vote, that one at least of the men for whom they vote must be a resident of the same state with themselves.

This is an operation which usually takes not more than ten to fifteen minutes, and it requires usually much more time to make out the formal lists than it does to vote for the candidates. The secretary prepares a list of all persons voted for for president and the number of votes cast. In very seldom happens that in an electoral college there are votes cast for more than one person for president. The same thing is done with the vote for vice-president. The electors sign and certify the two lists, and they add to them their own certificates of election as electors, certified by the secretary of state. There are three of these lists made: one of them is forwarded, under seal, to the president of the Senate of the United States; another is delivered to the United States judge of the district in which the state capital is situated; a third is committed to a special messenger, who is elected by the electoral college and commissioned to carry to Washington and deliver to the secretary of state of the United States this certified list, and to receive a receipt therefor.

For this service the electors receive such mileage and pay for attendance as is allowed by law to members of the legislature for their attendance and travel.

There has never been a case when a presidential elector has been elected to a party. It was said in 1876 that attempts were made, or the suggestion was made that some one or two electors be offered large sums of money to vote either a blank ballot in the electoral college or to vote for the candidate of the opposition. It is doubtful whether such suggestion would have been attempted, for no elector would dare at that time, however great the temptation, to sell his vote. It would have made an outcast of him, and his name would have gone into the tradition alongside that of Benedict Arnold.

There was in 1876, however, another proposition made in good faith, and one which many believed might be accepted. It was suggested that many Republicans believed that Mr. Tilden had received a majority of the popular vote, some Republican electors would vote off by voting for him, and great excitement was occasioned by the announcement that Mr. James Russell Lowell of Massachusetts was considering such a step. If Mr. Lowell or any other Republican elector had voted

for Mr. Tilden in the electoral college, it would have given him an undisputed majority of one vote. Mr. Lowell, however, while inclined to believe that Mr. Tilden was elected, declared that the question was with which he as an elector had nothing to do. It was his duty to vote in accordance with the wishes of that party which had chosen him as an elector, and he did so.

In looking back over the tables of the electoral vote it is noticed that sometimes the vote of a state has been divided, although this is a comparatively rare occurrence in recent years. In 1850 the vote of New Jersey was divided. In 1850 a remarkable return was made by the California electors. In the campaign a forged letter had been circulated which gave the impression that General Garfield was friendly to Chinese immigration. The forged letter was discovered and its effect negated in the east, but the damage had been done in California, and to that letter was attributed the fact that General Garfield lost the electoral vote of that state.

He received, however, one vote. One of the Democratic electors was Judge Terry, who was a few years ago shot by United States marshal, and who had himself killed United States Senator Broderick in a duel. Terry was so unpopular that a sufficient number of men were ready to vote for him to elect one Garfield elector, and that accounts for that singular and single electoral vote from California in 1850. In the electoral college, which means a decided and final result of the November election, there will be a division of the electoral votes in some of the states; in Michigan, because the electors are there chosen by express districts, and in some other states because by agreement there was fusion resulting in the election of some Democratic and some Weaver electors.

The electoral tables show one curious thing which to many of the present generation seems very remarkable, and that is that although Mr. Greeley was the candidate of the party in 1872, yet he had no electoral votes. This was due to the fact that Mr. Greeley died within two weeks after election. Had his party won the November election, a very serious question would have arisen. The electoral college would have had the power, in fact the duty, to select from some liberal Republican the man who would take the dead elector's place, and it has often been a matter of speculative comment what the electoral college would do in case this duty was upon them.

The electoral college have only one perquisite or piece of patronage; they are able to appoint the messengers who take the lists to the secretary of state, and this is an eagerly sought honor. It is usually given to a man who carries for no other office. He is paid a mileage and allowed a sum sufficient to pay his expenses. It is usually given upon the occasion that he has a free and officially important trip to Washington. These messengers who come from the Pacific slope make a little something home, and the little thing is a good deal more than the railroad fare.

CLOSING OF MAIL.

Salt Lake City P. O., Sept. 19, 1892.

U. P. - Fast Mail east.	7:00 a. m.
U. P. - Oregon and intermediate points.	8:00 a. m.
U. P. - Oregon, Logans, Preston (Ida.)	8:30 p. m.
U. P. - Montana, Oregon and Idaho.	9:00 a. m.
U. P. - Atlantic Mail east.	9:30 a. m.
U. P. - W. - California and Nevada.	10:00 a. m.
U. P. - Through coach for San Francisco.	10:30 a. m.
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